

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 031146Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2943

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 2407

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR RO US

SUBJ: ALLON VISIT: JEWISH EMIGRATION

REF: STATE 123262

1. ISRAELI AMBASSADOR COHEN TELLS ME EMIGRATION QUESTION RAISED INITIALLY BY MACOVESCU, WHO REITERATED CONTINUITY OF ROMANIAN POLICY OF PERMITTING EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL. AS IN HIS TALKS WITH ME HE MAINTAINED TO ALLON THAT SLOW DOWN HAD BEEN CAUSED BY SUSPENSION OF PASSPORT COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES, BUT SINCE COMMISSION HAD RESUMED WORK EARLIER THIS YEAR 1200 APPROVALS HAD BEEN GRANTED AND MORE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. IN CONTEXT OF BROADER ROMANIAN FOREIGN RELATIONS, MACOVESCU ALSO REFERRED TO ROMANIAN UNWILLINGNESS TO GIVE IN TO PRESSURE TACTICS, AND IN THIS CONNECTION MENTIONED IN PASSING EFFORTS OF SOME US SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN. NONETHELESS, HE SAID, ROMANIA WOULD MAKE A SERIOUS EFFORT TO SOLVE REQUESTS FOR EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL. HE SAID ON THE BASIS OF GOR FIGURES, HOWEVER, THERE WERE NOT ALL THAT MANY ACTIVE APPLICANTS.

2. ALLON, WHILE EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR POSITIVE APPROACH, SAID THAT WHAT COUNTED WAS ACTUAL DEPARTURES FOR ISRAEL, AND AMBASSADOR COHEN CITED BACK TO MACOVESCU EARLIER MFA-PROVIDED FIGURE OF 11,000 PENDING APPLICANTS. ALLON SUGGESTED THE BEST WEAY TO SEE WHETHER THERE WERE LARGE
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OR SMALL NUMBERS THAT WANTED TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL WAS

TO CREATE A SUFFICIENTLY POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE SO PEOPLE WOULD NOT HESITATE TO APPLY. AS FOR US CONGRESS, HE MENTIONED THAT IT WAS A SOVEREIGN BODY, BUT THAT IF MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS ASKED FOR INFORMATION FROM ISRAELI OFFICIALS THEY WOULD GET OBJECTIVE ACCOUNT OF THE EMIGRATION SITUATION.

3. TALK WITH CEAUSESCU COVERED ESSENTIALLY SAME GROUND, AND IN LAST INFORMAL SESSION MACOVESCU AGAIN URGED ALLON TO BELIEVE THAT ROMANIA WOULD RESPOND POSITIVELY TO EMIGRATION REQUESTS.

4. ISRAELI AMBASSADOR'S OWN EVALUATION IS THAT THERE WILL BE A SERIOUS ROMANIAN EFFORT TO CONVINCE ISRAELIS (AND THE US CONGRESS) OF SIGNIFICANT FORWARD MOVEMENT. HE IS MORE SKEPTICAL AS TO HOW LONG, EVEN WITH SUCH AN EFFORT, IT WILL TAKE BEFORE APPROVALS GET TRANSLATED INTO DEPARTURES, GIVEN THE CUMBERSOME ROMANIAN BUREAUCRATIC METHODS BEFORE EMIGRANTS ACTUALLY HAVE PASSPORTS IN HAND AND LEAVE, NOT TO MENTION THE DELAYS IN DEPARTURES CONNECTED WITH INDIVIDUAL SITUATIONS. HE DID SAY HOWEVER, THAT THE NUMBER OF APPROVALS IS ALREADY 1800 (NOT 1200 AS MACOVESCU STATED) AND THAT THIS IS IN ADDITION TO 300 WHO HAVE ALREADY LEFT THIS YEAR.

5. MIDDLE EAST ASPECTS OF VISIT COVERED IN SEPTTEL.
BARNES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JEWS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, EMIGRANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUCHAR02407
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750193-0541
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750683/aaaacxwa.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 123262
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLON VISIT: JEWISH EMIGRATION
TAGS: PFOR, RO, US, IS, (ALLON, YIGAL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006